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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/055,442	01/23/2002	William M. Huntley JR.	30GF-9097	7941

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EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, PHUOC H	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2143	

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/055,442	HUNTLEY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phuoc H. Nguyen	2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 January 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-50* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-50* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/19/06
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

2. Amendment received on January 19, 2006 has been entered into record.

Response to Amendment

3. This office action is in response to the applicants Amendment filed on January 19, 2006. Claims 1, 12-16, 19-20, 23-25, 28-29, and 32 have been amended, and claims 47-50 have been added. Claims 1-50 are presented for further consideration and examination.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-50 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for

patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Conway (U.S. 6,665,822).

7. Regarding claim 1, Conway discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 an e-mail-enabled automation control module (ACM) system (e.g. Figure 3 and abstract) comprising: an ACM (e.g. any components within the networking equipment can be an ACM 16, 15, and 18 wherein each of these components are integrated and operated together as a unit); and an e-mail system (e.g. col. 2 lines 1-13 and col. 4 lines 19-24) electrically connected to ACM that is configured to automatically control at least one device (e.g. further col. 3 lines 41-68) and that is coupled to a backplane (e.g. 14 as a backplane switch), e-mail system (e.g. col. 5 lines 2-7) configured to perform at least one of sending e-mail messages from ACM through a network, and receiving e-mail messages from the network (e.g. general architecture in Figure 3).

8. Regarding claim 2, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 the e-mail messages include ACM data (e.g. col. 6 line 37 to col. 7 line 4).

9. Regarding claim 3, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 the e-mail messages include ACM notifications (e.g. col. 6 line 37 to col. 7 line 4).

10. Regarding claim 4, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 the e-mail messages include at least one of ACM data, and ACM notifications from at least one of another ACM and another device (e.g. col. 6 line 37 to col. 7 line 4 and Figure 6).

11. Regarding claim 5, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 e-mail system comprises a network interface configured for connection to the network (e.g. 22 in Figure 1).

12. Regarding claim 6, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 e-mail system comprises an e-mail client configured to send the e-mail messages through network interface and the network (e.g. Figure 3).

13. Regarding claim 7, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 e-mail system comprises an e-mail server configured to perform at least one of receive the e-mail messages from the network (e.g. Figure 3), transfer ACM data to and from ACM, transfer ACM notifications to and from ACM, and receive and respond to e-mail transfer requests from the network (e.g. col. 6 line 37 to col. 7 line 4).

14. Regarding claim 8, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-7 e-mail server comprises at least one mailbox configured to store at least one e-mail message, e-mail server further configured to allow a user that is connected to e-mail system through the network to perform at least one of read, modify, and delete the e-mail messages stored in at least one mailbox (e.g. Figure 7).

15. Regarding claim 9, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 ACM comprises an ACM central processing unit (CPU) and a CPU system memory, CPU configured to execute ACM functions (e.g. col. 3 lines 64-68).

16. Regarding claim 10, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 ACM comprises a backplane interface electrically connected to ACM and the backplane electrically connected to backplane interface, backplane configured for connection with at least one of an input/output (I/O) module and an input module (e.g. wherein the backplane is 14 and the I/O module can be 16 or 18 as desired).

17. Regarding claim 11, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 e-mail system electrically connected to backplane (e.g. electrically run 10).

18. Regarding claim 12, Conway discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 a method for management and control of an automation control module (ACM), the ACM including an e-mail system electrically connected to the ACM and a network (e.g. Figure 3 and abstract), method comprising: sending e-mail messages from the first ACM through the network using the e-mail system (e.g. Figure 3 part 68 and 70); receiving e-mail messages from the network using the e-mail system (e.g. Figure 3 part 74 and 78); and requesting, by the first ACM, information via the e-mail system from a second ACM (e.g. 74), wherein the first ACM automatically controls a device and is coupled to a backplane (e.g. further col. 3 lines 41-68).

19. Regarding claim 13, it has same limitations as cited in claim 6. Thus, claim 13 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 6.

20. Regarding claim 14, it has same limitations as cited in claim 2. Thus, claim 14 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 2.

21. Regarding claim 15, it has same limitations as cited in claim 3. Thus, claim 15 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 3.

22. Regarding claim 16, it has same limitations as cited in claim 6. Thus, claim 16 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 6.

23. Regarding claim 17, it has same limitations as cited in claim 2. Thus, claim 17 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 2.

24. Regarding claim 18, it has same limitations as cited in claim 3. Thus, claim 18 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 3.

25. Regarding claim 19, it has same limitations as cited in claim 7. Thus, claim 19 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 7.

26. Regarding claim 20, it has same limitations as cited in claim 7. Thus, claim 20 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 7.

27. Regarding claim 21, it has same limitations as cited in claim 7. Thus, claim 21 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 7.

28. Regarding claim 22, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 granting a user on the network access to the e-mail server; and allowing the user to perform at least one of read, modify, and delete the e-mail messages (e.g. Figure 7 and col. 6 line 36 to col. 7 line 10 as registration process).

29. Regarding claim 23, it has same limitations as cited in claim 12. Thus, claim 23 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 12.

30. Regarding claim 24, it has same limitations as cited in claim 2. Thus, claim 24 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 2.

31. Regarding claim 25, it has same limitations as cited in claim 3. Thus, claim 25 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 3.

32. Regarding claim 26, it has same limitations as cited in claim 2. Thus, claim 26 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 2.

33. Regarding claim 27, it has same limitations as cited in claim 3. Thus, claim 27 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 3.

34. Regarding claim 28, it has same limitations as cited in claim 7. Thus, claim 28 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 7.

35. Regarding claim 29, it has same limitations as cited in claim 7. Thus, claim 29 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 7.

36. Regarding claim 30, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 the system further comprises at least one other ACM electrically connected to the network (e.g. Figure 1 part 10), method further comprising: sending ACM data to the at least one other ACM through the network using the e-mail subsystem (e.g. Figure 3); and receiving ACM data from the at least one other ACM through the network using the e-mail subsystem (e.g. Figure 3 through an intermediator).

37. Regarding claim 31, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 the system further comprises at least one other ACM electrically connected to the network, method further comprising: sending ACM notifications to the at least one other ACM through the network using the e-mail subsystem; and receiving ACM notifications from the at least one other ACM through the network using the e-mail subsystem (e.g. col. 6 lines 65-68).

38. Regarding claim 32, Conway discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 an automation control module (ACM) system (e.g. Figure 3 and abstract) comprising: an ACM (e.g. any component within Figure 3); a network (e.g. Figure 3); a general purpose computer electrically connected to network (e.g. 78); and an e-mail subsystem electrically connected to network and ACM (e.g. 50 and 68), wherein ACM is configured to automatically control at least one device and is coupled to a backplane (e.g. any components within the networking equipment can be an ACM 16, 15, and 18 wherein each of these components are integrated and operated together as a unit), e-mail subsystem configured to perform at least one of sending e-mail messages from ACM through

network to general purpose computer and receiving e-mail messages from general purpose computer through network (e.g. Figure 3).

39. Regarding claim 33, it has same limitations as cited in claim 2. Thus, claim 33 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 2.

40. Regarding claim 34, it has same limitations as cited in claim 3. Thus, claim 34 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 3.

41. Regarding claim 35, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 e-mail subsystem further configured to receive e-mail messages from network (e.g. 74 to 78).

42. Regarding claim 36, it has same limitations as cited in claim 7. Thus, claim 36 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 7.

43. Regarding claim 37, it has same limitations as cited in claim 7. Thus, claim 37 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 7.

44. Regarding claim 38, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 e-mail subsystem further configured to receive and respond to e-mail transfer requests (e.g. Figure 3).

45. Regarding claim 39, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 network is the Internet (e.g. by IP and col. 5 lines 49-65).

46. Regarding claim 40, it has same limitations as cited in claim 30. Thus, claim 40 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 30.

47. Regarding claim 41, it has same limitations as cited in claim 31. Thus, claim 41 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 31.

48. Regarding claim 42, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 at least one other device electrically connected to network, e-mail subsystem further configured to: send e-mail

messages to at least one other device through network; and receive e-mail messages from at least one other device through network (e.g. Figure 3 wherein the at least one other device can be FAMS 74).

49. Regarding claim 43, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 e-mail subsystem embedded within ACM (e.g. 50).

50. Regarding claim 44, it has same limitations as cited in claim 10. Thus, claim 44 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 10.

51. Regarding claim 45, it has same limitations as cited in claim 43. Thus, claim 45 is also rejected under the same rationale as cited in the rejection of rejected claim 43.

52. Regarding claim 46, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 e-mail subsystem electrically connected to backplane (e.g. 58 in Figure 3).

53. Regarding claim 47, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 the at least one device is separate from ACM (e.g. empty slot 57).

54. Regarding claim 48, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 the at least one device is coupled to ACM via the backplane (e.g. Figure 1).

55. Regarding claim 49, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 the at least one device is coupled to ACM via the backplane and via an input/output module (e.g. I/O module can be empty slot 57).

56. Regarding claim 50, Conway further discloses in Figure 1, 3, and 5-6 the at least one device is coupled to ACM via the backplane, and the backplane is separate from ACM (e.g. Figure 1).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuoc H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Phuoc H Nguyen
Examiner
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March 29, 2006

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